

Big Sky Libraries

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Montana State Library [MSL]

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Summer Institute 2000

MSL's first ever Summer Institute [SI], funded with Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) money, was held in June on the MSU-Billings Campus. Forty-four Montana librarians attended the weeklong training event, which emphasized small public library management.



Hard at work during a session.

The librarians, including 39 current public library directors, learned management and leadership skills based on their personality style; the why and how of promoting libraries; what library laws mean; what's exciting in electronic resources and how to plan and budget for things like e-books; how to write and use policies to keep the library on course; and what services are available through MSL. It was a great deal to absorb in a week, but participants took it all in and asked for more from every presenter.



Class of Summer Institute 2000

Every session had the librarians working in groups, brainstorming ideas on a variety of case studies, and coming up with solutions for tricky everyday library dilemmas. The librarians spent their time outside the classroom learning from each other. The networking, a real highlight and invaluable by-product, began the very first evening at the "mixer" event, continued throughout the week, and is undoubtedly still going on.

The SI participants and MSL staff all stayed in Petro Hall Dorm and ate at the Student Union. Some discovered that dorm life and food have changed since earlier college days – floors are coed now, and the food

was all very tasty! The MSU-Billings Campus is lovely, and the staff was attentive to the group's every need. It made for a very pleasant atmosphere that encouraged learning and promoted networking.

On the final day, the SI participants honored the MSL staff with an official proclamation signed by all the librarians attending. The proclamation claimed, in part, that the Summer Institute 2000 was "the best experience of training and networking that the public library directors of the state have had."

Calendar

For more information on these and other Montana Library events, visit our web calendar: <http://msl.state.mt.us/calendar.html>

September 8-9 - Montana Festival of the Book, Caras Park and environs, Missoula, MT

September 22-23 - 2000 Fall Workshop [Second Annual] at Lewistown. Training on various topics for librarians.

October 11 - Montana State Library Commission Meeting, Montana State Library Conference Room - Helena

A Word From Our State Librarian

During the annual ALA conference in Chicago, I shared a room with Suzanne Reymer, MSL's technology librarian in Billings. We both read before sleeping. Nothing novel about that, until I heard a clinking sound from Suzanne's bed. Suzanne had brought MSL's e-book to Chicago with enough stored reading material for her five-day stay and two long plane rides. Although I had looked at our e-book and "turned" a page or two of Alice in Wonderland, I had never seen anyone use an e-book.

Suzanne said she had no problem holding up the book and reading the text while prone. Because the screen holds less text than most books, she needed to press the page-advance key more often than she would have had to turn a page. But she didn't find this annoying nor did the click bother me.

I'd bet that each of you affiliated with a public library has answered a question about the future role of the library within the last year. I used to answer this question with a hint of impatience that I hope I hid. Think, I would say, of the role of the librarian in the digital maze—helping people find the information they wanted. Also, isn't the public library the last refuge from the market place where citizens can pursue civil life and education, even relaxation, far from the commercialized crowd? And isn't the printed book an essential part of our culture? And doesn't the library offers access to electronic information to those who can not afford a computer?

"Ms" magazine used to describe the moment in which a woman's consciousness was raised as a "click." Though the soft click of Suzanne's e-book didn't lead to a heightened awareness of sexism, it did make my answers to the question of public libraries' future less assured.

For example, what happens to our navigator role when succeeding generations achieve proficiency and information becomes easy to access? What happens to the library's role in bridging a digital divide when bandwidth and equipment become available to almost every citizen? What happens when I want the new Bill James' novel and instead of going to the library, I download it free from the library's server or for \$1.00 from Bill James' web site? In my darkest hour, what happens to the role of the library as a public place when no one flees from the mall? Will the public library morph into one great big server at each county courthouse or in Helena attended by an programmer and a content specialist?

This is much fanciful induction from a simple, soft click. And I understand that these questions are based on conditions that are not likely to happen, such as universal proficiency. But recent developments seem to me to decrease the time that libraries have to define new roles or refine older roles. I hope that MSL can help libraries in this important endeavor.



Karen's Schedule:

Sept. 26-27 - MACO Conference,
Havre

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 - BCR Board Meeting

2000 Fall Workshop

MSL is again hosting a Fall Workshop for all Montana librarians and trustees at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown. Dates for this two-day workshop are September 22-23. Last year's Fall Workshop brought more than 100 librarians to Lewistown for a variety of training sessions. Many librarians requested that the event be held in the same central location.

The workshop is funded with Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds from the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the MSL Commission. There is no registration fee, but participants will pay for their own travel and accommodations. Lunch both days will be provided at no charge. Continuing education credit hours are available.

Topics include: accounting for library budgets; personnel regulations and hiring procedures; weeding collections; evaluating Web resources; InfoTrac database; working with Windows and security for computer files; MSL's Talking Book Library program; advanced reference skills, emphasizing information requests on business and Montana topics; and how libraries build sustainable communities.

For details, please see the registration form inserted in this issue of *Big Sky Libraries*. Registration materials are also available on the MSL website at: <http://msl.state.mt.us/LDD/Training/FallWorkshopRegistration.html>. Contact Sue Jackson, 1-800-338-5087, sujackson@state.mt.us

Montana Talking Book Library [MTBL]

Summer Reading Program

MTBL's Summer Reading Program for youth started June 12 and ended on August 11. This year's theme was "2000—Launch into the New Millennium." Reader Advisor Cheryl Christopher, who coordinated the program this year, invited all youth patrons to join her on a "2000, New Millennium Space Shuttle Tour." Thirteen young people joined the tour, contracting to read a number of books through the summer. Each youth selected the number of books s/he would read and kept track of the titles in a Reading Log.

Bonus points could be earned for completing assigned tasks. Each week the participants received a message from their tour guide, asking them to find information or complete a task. Participants listed what they did in a Bonus Point Log. The Reading Log and Bonus Point Log will

be returned to TBL. Bonus tasks included: naming a new planet; choosing a subject they knew nothing about and reading about it; as members of an exploring party for the new planet, what two books would they take with them; to take care of Home Base on Planet Earth, they had to list two ways of recycling that help to preserve the environment; over the July 4th week freedom was discussed and participants had to list 5 human behaviors that lead to war, and 5 to peace; and different ways of communication such as Braille and computer language were discussed, and participants had to decipher a coded phrase using a raised code Cheryl created; and finally they had to name the first human in space and the first American in space.

Awards will be given to the readers who completed their contract. Bonus points will add value to the awards received.

Montana Library Directory Changes

PG#	CITY	LIBRARY	CATEGORY	CHANGE
4	Helena	Montana State Library	Roberta Gebhardt moves to LISD	New Title: Publications Assistant New Phone #: 406-444-5393
15	Darby	Darby Public Library	Library name Change	Darby Community Public Library
15	Darby	Darby Community Public Library	Mailing Address	PO Box 1213
15	Darby	Darby Community Public Library	E-mail Address	library@in-tch.com
16	Denton	Denton Public Library	Library Director	Lorraine Stapleton retired, no successor yet.
19	Glendive	Glendive Public Library	Director E-mail	gnagle@midrivers.com
25	Plentywood	Sheridan County Library	Director E-mail	slee@co.sheridan.mt.us
64	Lima	Lima Public Schools	New Address	PO Box 186
83	Box Elder	Stone Child College Library	New Director	Juanita Costilla
89	Warm Springs	Patients' Library	Directors E-mail	Teferguson@state.mt.us
90	Billings	Deaconess Billings Clinic Medical Library	New Director	Connie Younkin
93	Hamilton	Ribi Immunochem Research, Inc.	New Ownership/ Name	Corixa Montana, Corp.
Please note, these changes have been made to the online directory at: http://msl.state.mt.us/slr/directory/contents.pdf				

ALTA Honor Roll

The America's Library Trustees & Advocates [ALTA], a division of ALA, recently asked for names to add to the National Advocacy Honor Roll. The Honor Roll identifies and celebrates those who have actively supported and strengthened library services over the last 100 years. MSL submitted the following names:

Inez Herrig, Libby, for: her extraordinary knowledge of library material; her ability to share that knowledge; enlarging the means of public access; overcoming distance, terrain, and weather to serve remote locations; being a champion of interlibrary cooperation; outstanding service to the Montana Library Association; her wisdom, humor and humility; and for six decades of library service.

Royal C. Johnson, Billings, for: his service as a leader, trusted advisor, financial expert, and tireless promoter of the Parmly Billings Library; leadership in establishing and directing the Billings Library Foundation; dedicated participation on the Blue Ribbon Panel on Libraries at Risk; and outstanding support of library interests as State Representative for District 88.

Pat Williams, Missoula, for: his understanding of the role of libraries in society; his courageous protection of the first amendment rights; his leadership in engineering the reauthorization of LSCA and NEA funding; and his vigorous defense of intellectual freedom in Montana and in America.

Peggy Gadbow, Missoula, for: being MLA's 1978 School Administrator; getting MLA's special services award in 1986; and leadership in the advancement of school library media programs.

Betty Flechsig, Havre, for: being a diplomat; turning a problem into an opportunity; respecting the rights and opinions of others; bringing out the best in others; creating harmony; living in the public spotlight; countless hours of physical labor; attention to detail; the ability to make difficult decisions; persistence, fairness, firmness, humor and vision; being a great plains woman who gives a full measure of service so others may benefit; and all the efforts that gave birth to the Havre-Hill County Library.

Margaret [Mrs. R.D.] Warden, Great Falls, for being a key leader and spokesperson for state library

legislation and an inspiration and guide to the public library trustees of the state.

Posthumous nominations were submitted for:

Laurie Howey for being one of the leaders in development of the Montana Historical Society and library, and being Secretary and Librarian of the State Historical and Miscellaneous Library from 1895 to 1907.

William Henry Bertsche for his unstinting efforts in the legislature to promote the passage of constructive library legislation aimed at sound and orderly development of library service in Montana.

Mabel Brewer for: her contributions to libraries in her community, in Montana and in all of the Pacific Northwest. She was a pioneer in multitype library cooperation.

Alma Jacobs was MLA's librarian of the year in 1968 and another pioneer in multitype library cooperation.

Advocates were honored at an ALA/ALTA banquet on July 7, 2000 in Chicago.

BCR Training at MSU-Bozeman

August 2000

- 22 Cataloging: Audio-visual Materials**
- 23 Cataloging: Internet Resources:** Cataloging Internet resources, and the impact of metadata and the Dublin Core.
- 24 Cataloging: Sound Recordings:** Catalog sound recordings on MARC-based automated systems.
- 25 Cataloging: Scores Format:** Basic scores cataloging.

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- 5 Internet: The Next Step:** Using the Internet efficiently.
- 6 Web Design II: Tables and Forms:**
- 7 Web Design III:** Advanced HTML; Style Sheets, new technologies; using the META element to affect how search engines index your site and how browsers load your site.
- 8 The Web: Your Global Reference Collection:** Using the Web for ready reference and research.

Cost \$95 for BCR members, more for non-members. Register online: <http://www.bcr.org/workshop/States/montana.html>

Grant Opportunities

The Lois Lenski Covey Foundation annually awards grants from \$500 to \$5,000 to rural and urban public and school libraries and to agency libraries serving at-risk children. The grants are for purchasing books for young people. Applications are due September 30, 2000.

The 1946 Newbery medallist for "Strawberry Girl," Lois Lenski, wished all children to have access to good books. Towards that goal, she established the Lois Lenski Covey Foundation.

Contact: The Lois Lenski Foundation, Attn.: Arthur F. Abelman, Moses & Singer, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019-6076.

Another grant opportunity, funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, is presented through a partnership of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Library of America, and the American Library Association. Called "The Millennium Project for Public Libraries," will provide a grant to at least 800 public libraries.

The award includes:

- 50 Library of America volumes
- 50 bookplates citing the gift of the Millennium Project
- prepared press release and promotional material
- online access to a resource guide for public programming and to a programming evaluation instrument.

Also, libraries with annual book budgets under \$5,000 will be eligible to receive a stipend of \$150 toward the costs of organizing programs.

The set of books is valued at approximately \$1,795. Each library selected to participate in the Millennium Project must pay \$250 toward the cost.

The deadlines for the applications are November 15, 2000 and April 1, 2001. Submit applications online at <http://www.neh.gov/millenniumlibraries>.

Contact: ALA publicprograms@ala.org or call 800-545-2433 x 15045. For technical problems with the website, e-mail webmaster@neh.gov.

MLN/OCLC Training

Ten training sessions will be held in Montana from August to October. The training has something for everyone; however, few need to attend for the whole week. Trainers include Rick Newell and Margi Mann from OCLC/WLN. An MSL Statewide Technology Librarian will assist at each session.

The cost is included in your library's OCLC membership enrollment fees. Libraries will be responsible for travel, food, and lodging.

Weekly Schedule

- Tuesdays — Beginning LaserCat (hands-on)
- Wednesdays — WorldCat, CatExpress, MLN Web Gateway (mixture of hands-on and lecture/demonstration)
- Thursdays — OCLC online interlibrary loan (hands-on)
- Fridays (morning) — OCLC online interlibrary loan (hands-on, finished by noon)

Due to limited space we may need to limit attendees from any one library, however with ten sessions, we should be able to fit every library in.

Session Times and Locations

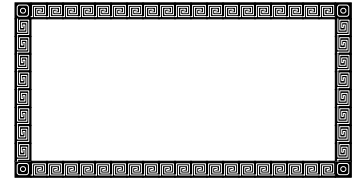
- Helena Aug 22 - Carroll College
- Clinton (near Missoula) Aug 29 - Clinton School
- Billings Aug 29 - MSU-Billings
- Glendive Sep 26 - Dawson Community College
- Havre Sep 26 - Havre Middle School
- Sidney Oct 3 - Public Library
- Great Falls Oct 3 - Great Falls Public Library
- Libby Oct 17 - Libby High School
- Bozeman Oct 17 - Burns Telecommunications Center
- Billings Oct 24 - MSU-Billings

Registration information available at:

<http://montanalibraries.org/news.htm>, (Will also be mailed to every Montana library.) **Contact:** Bruce Newell, MLN Dir., bnewell@state.mt.us



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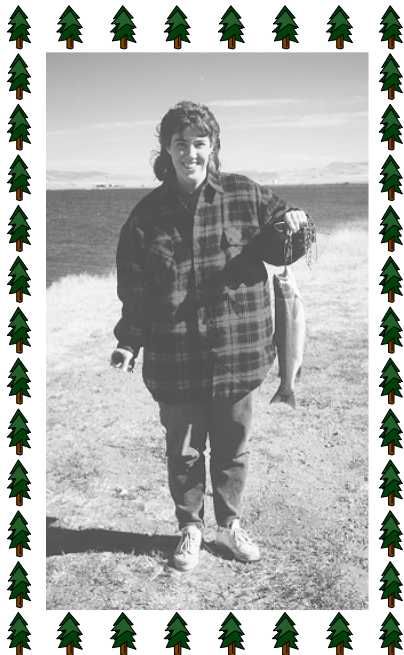
Spotlight: Roberta Gebhardt, Publications Assistant

Roberta Gebhardt has worked at the Montana State Library since May 1997. She started out as a Readers Advisor in the Montana Talking Book Library [MTBL] and two years later she became the Machine Lending Agent. On August 1, 2000, Roberta became the Publications Assistant for the Montana State Publications Center of MSL. She is looking forward to learning more about the technical service part of libraries.

Roberta has a degree in English Education and a minor in Library Science from Montana State University-Bozeman.

She married Kelvin, her best friend, in 1994. They enjoy fishing, hiking, boating, and camping. Most of these activities are also enjoyed by Jake and Matilda, the family dogs. Since Roberta and Kelvin are both Montana natives, they have tried very hard to stay in Montana. This took them to Butte where Kelvin received his Masters degree from Montana Tech while Roberta worked in the Circulation Department of the Montana Tech Library. After a year and a half in Butte, they moved on to Helena and have been here for the last four years.

Roberta and Kelvin recently bought a house with a small amount of acreage and are looking forward to changing irrigation pipe, putting up hay, and learning all sorts of new things about raising cattle.



Roberta fishing at Dailey Lake.